

Helen Heaps House
HA 1907

This circa 1932 house was built for Helen Heaps by her father, Dr. William Arthur. The house stands out as one of only a handful of brick structures in Cardiff, and it is the only example of the early twentieth century four-square, with the usual pyramidal hip roof and hip roof dormers. The building is of the Colonial Revival style with its symmetrical facade, windows with multi-panes only in the upper sash, and large attic dormers. In addition, it is stylized with a carriage porch, heavy block lintels, and tracery decorating the fanlight and sidelights. Having been built after the mass of Victorian era houses, this building's clean, utilitarian design and lack of cluttering detail stand out as unique to this town. However, as typical of the houses in this major slate quarrying region, the roof is of hand-split slate shingles, an art which was quickly a dying when this house was built.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. HA 1907

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Helen Heaps House

2. Location

street & number 1637 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Cardiff vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Eleanor H. and Curtis V. Thompson

street & number RD 2 box 376 telephone no.: (717) 456-5863

city, town Delta state and zip code PA, 17314

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber CGH 1430

street & number 20 W. Courtland Pl. folio 254

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This attractive cube house is located at the southeast corner of Main and Arthur Streets in the village of Cardiff, Maryland. Having been built in the thirties, this massive brick building diverges from the more airy late Victorian structures that make up the majority of the town's architecture. Built on a four-square plan, the house is two-stories high and a wide two bays by four bays. The structure has a deep one-story porch with a flat roof projecting from the first floor of the main, west facade and a unique carriage porch extending from the east bay of the north side. A two-story, shed roof appendage is located at the middle section of the rear which is utility space on the first-story and a porch on the second. The building's pyramidal hip roof is made of slate and has three hip roof dormers, one centered on the west, main facade and one each centered on the north and south side walls. A wide external chimney is placed on the south side west-middle bay. A large separate garage/outbuilding of the same building architectural style sits off the southeast corner.

The main entrance is located at the north bay of the main facade and has a fanlight and sidelights with lead tracery. Fenestration of the main, west facade of this house is simple and sparse. With the entrance at the north bay, the main facade has a triple window in the remaining south first-story bay. The upper-story of the main facade has two single windows defining the second story bays with a wide expanse of brick between them. Except for the dormer windows which are 6/6 sash, all windows are 6/1.

Excluding the west-middle bay with its chimney, the south wall has a regular pattern of windows in all three upper and lower bays. Windows also abound on the north wall in an interesting and irregular pattern. The scattered pattern is exacerbated by three windows which "stair-step" up to the west edge of the north side from the west-middle bay. The mid-floor window which creates this step effect illuminates the interior stairs. (A low side entrance accompanies the stairwell window at ground level.) A small double window is centered under the carriage porch on the first-story and two small single windows are set close together in the two middle, upper bays. A single standard-sized window delineates the upper story east bay of the north side. The rear wall mimicks the main facade in window positioning with three windows and a back door in the north lower bay situated at the outer upper and lower bays. The middle area is filled with the two-story projection. A second-story door accesses the balcony/porch and the first-story utility area has one standard and one small narrow window.

Built during the early twentieth century in the Colonial Revival style, the building deliberately has little ornamentation. The building's dark brick is accented by thick white trim at the windows, doors, and molded cornice. Light-colored, heavy block lintels, sills, and porch rail capping provide coarse decoration and contribute to the weight of this house. The fan light and sidelights with tracery and rounded porch fascia provide the only curves to an otherwise austere building.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

According to Betty Williams, Dr. William Arthur had this circa 1932 house built for his daughter, Helen. The house stands out as one of only a handful of brick structures in Cardiff, and it is the only example of the early twentieth century four-square, with the usual pyramidal hip roof and hip roof dormers. The building is of the Colonial Revival style with its symmetrical facade, windows with multi-panes only in the upper sash, and large attic dormers. In addition, it is stylized with a carriage porch, heavy block lintels, and tracery decorating the fanlight and sidelights. Having been built after the mass of Victorian era houses, this building's clean, utilitarian design and lack of cluttering detail stand out as unique to this town. However, as typical of the houses in this major slate quarrying region, the roof is of hand-split slate shingles, an art which was quickly a dying when this house was built.

This lot was part of the seventeen acres of farmland owned by John Parry and contained the original Parry house. The house and this lot was bequeathed to Elizabeth Barton by her father, John Parry, a native of Pengroes, Llanllyfny North Wales. Having come to the United States in 1832 prior to the rush of Welsh immigrants in the 1850's, John Parry and his brothers got a head-start on the budding slate industry. He was one founder and the manager of The Welsh Slate Company of Harford County. At his death, all other accumulated lands south of this lot were turned over to his son, Richard. Based on Equity Case WSF 41/351, Elizabeth J. Parry v. Margaret Parry et al., the unprofitable farm was sold to the South Delta Land Company for subdivision and development in 1896, the height of the area's "boom era".

Originally owned by Thomas Hawkins (farmer) in a patented land grant known as "Hawkins Chance", this land was part of the tract sold by the Hawkins family to Rowland Parry, John's brother, who owned and operated one of the first prominent commercial quarries in the area. It was Rowland Parry who exhibited Peach Bottom slate in the London Crystal Palace Exposition in 1850, winning it international recognition as the world's finest slate. "Hawkins Chance" was divided and sold in pieces, passing mostly through the hands of Parry's relatives and countrymen in various forms.

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PS-2746

HELEN HEAPS HOUSE
Title Search

CGH 1430/254	September 23, 1987	Grantor: Eleanor H. Thompson et al. Grantee: Eleanor H. and Curtis V. Thompson
HDC 1166/38	June 25, 1982	Grantor: Marshall T., Jr. and Ann P. Heaps et al. Grantee: Eleanor H. Thompson et al. Granted: town lot with improvements, fronting Main Street 84 feet
HDC 1158/164	January 25, 1982	Grantor: Helen A. Heaps Grantee: Marshall T. Heaps, Jr. et al
SWC 248/72	September 20, 1937	Grantor: Dr. William E. and Effie M. Arthur Grantee: Helen A. (daughter) and Marshall T. Heaps
SWC 223/209	April 28, 1932	Grantor: Philip H. Close, Assignee (in mortgage from George C. Proctor and wife to William S. Archer) Grantee: William E. Arthur
WSF 99/212	March 17, 1900	Grantor: Elizabeth (Parry) and John A. Barton Grantee: George C. Proctor Granted: town lot 84' by 400', for \$2225.00 (indicates a structure; most likely the original Parry House)
Will Records WS 10/440	September 12, 1888	John Parry, Sr. devises to daughter, Elizabeth, the house in which he resides on a lot of ground 84' by 400'. The original Parry House existed on this lot.
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	Grantor: Hugh E. Hughes Grantee: John Parry Granted: 10 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$1050.00
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	Grantor: Humphrey R. and Jane H. Lloyd Grantee: John Parry Granted: 2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" with improvements, on west side of Main St. (same as ALJ 25/346) for \$1200.00
ALJ 25/346	April 11, 1871	Grantor: Richard Hughes and wife Grantee: Jane H. Lloyd (daughter) Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch (see ALJ 9/29)

ALJ 9/30	May 29, 1857	Grantor: Richard Hughes et al. Grantee: John and Ellin Parry Granted: 8 acres 35 perches of "Hawkins Chance" for \$500.00
ALJ 9/29	May 29, 1857	Grantor: John Parry Grantee: Richard Hughes Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch
HDG 36/424	July 27, 1850	Grantor: Ro(w)land and Anne Parry Grantee: John Parry and Richard Hughes Granted: 3 1/2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$350.00
HDG 36/215	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Rowland Perry Grantee: John Perry and Richard Hughes Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$600.00
HDG 36/214 (indenture)	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Benjamin Williams Grantee: John Perry et al. Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$200.00
HDG 36/212	January 22, 1850	Grantor: Archibald A. and Nancy Hawkins Grantee: Rowland Perry (Parry) Granted: part of "Hawkins Chance" for \$850.00, acreage unknown
HDG 34/492	February 9, 1849	Grantor: Edward Proctor et al. Grantee: Archabald A. Hawkins Granted: "Hawkins Chance", being part of Thomas Hawkins landholdings; 74 acres 5 perches
HD 14/336	August 3, 1831	Grantor: Isaac Hawkins, heir to Thomas Hawkins Grantee: Thomas Proctor, heir to Edward Proctor Granted: The eighth part of land tracts "Hawkins Chance", "Williams Birthright", Mount Pleasant", and "Montgomerys Delight" . The four tracts contain 188 acres total. No mention of "eighth part" acreage.
Land Tract, Patented	After March 1774, when Harford est.	"Hawkins Chance", tract of 74 acres 5 perches granted to Thomas Hawkins. Located on the Maryland and Pennsylvania line at the north end of present day Cardiff. Divided, sold, and reworked often.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley, John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer. 1989.

Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Delta Centennial, A souvenir book from the 1953 centennial celebration which was organized by the Delta-Cardiff Fire Company.

History of York County, Gibson. 1880.

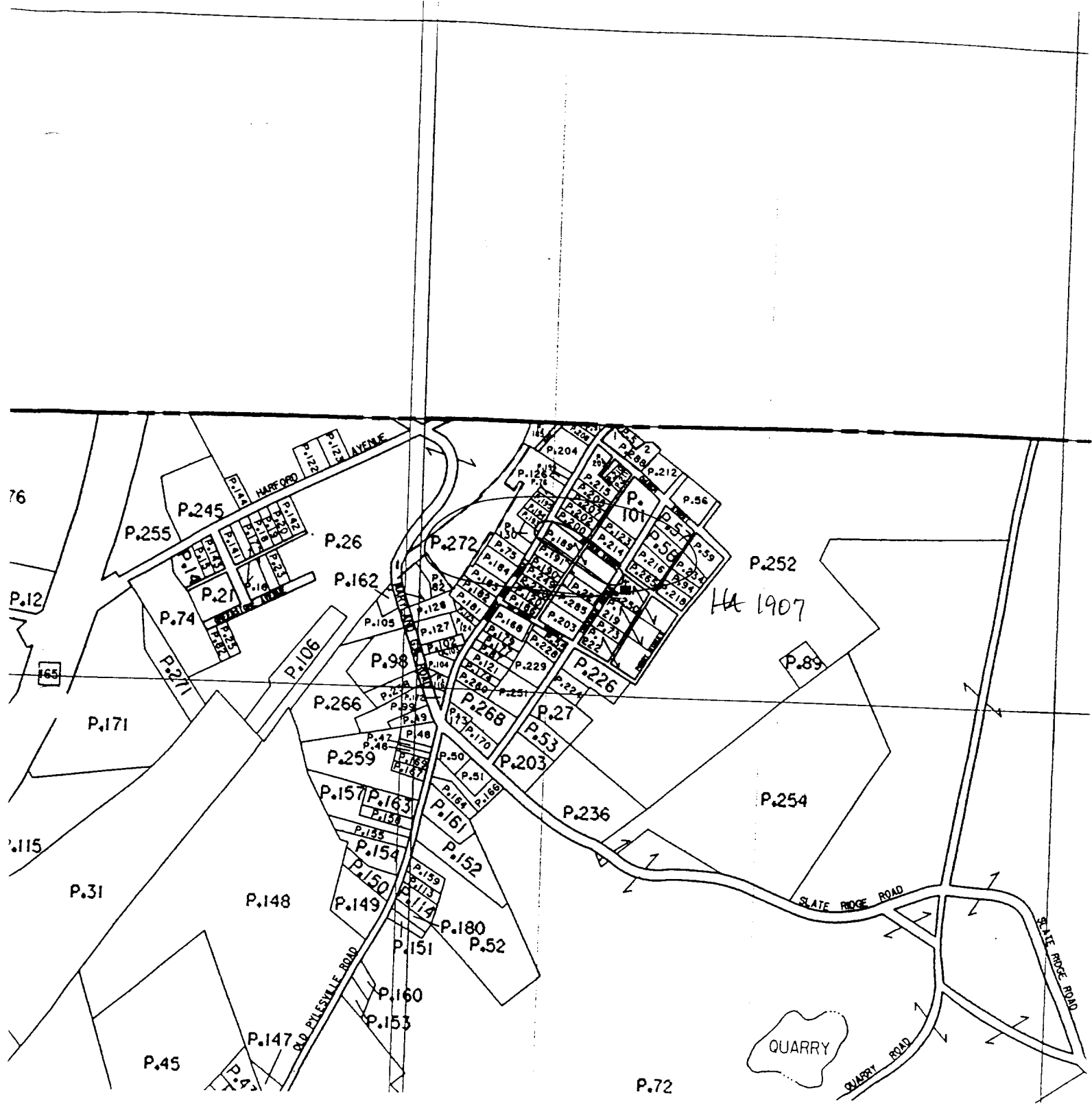
Conversation with Mrs. Betty Williams, June 12, 1995.

Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995.

Conversations with Mrs. Marion Scaborough, June 20, June 22, July 25, and August 1, 1995 regarding Parry family history.

Harford County Historical Society Archives.

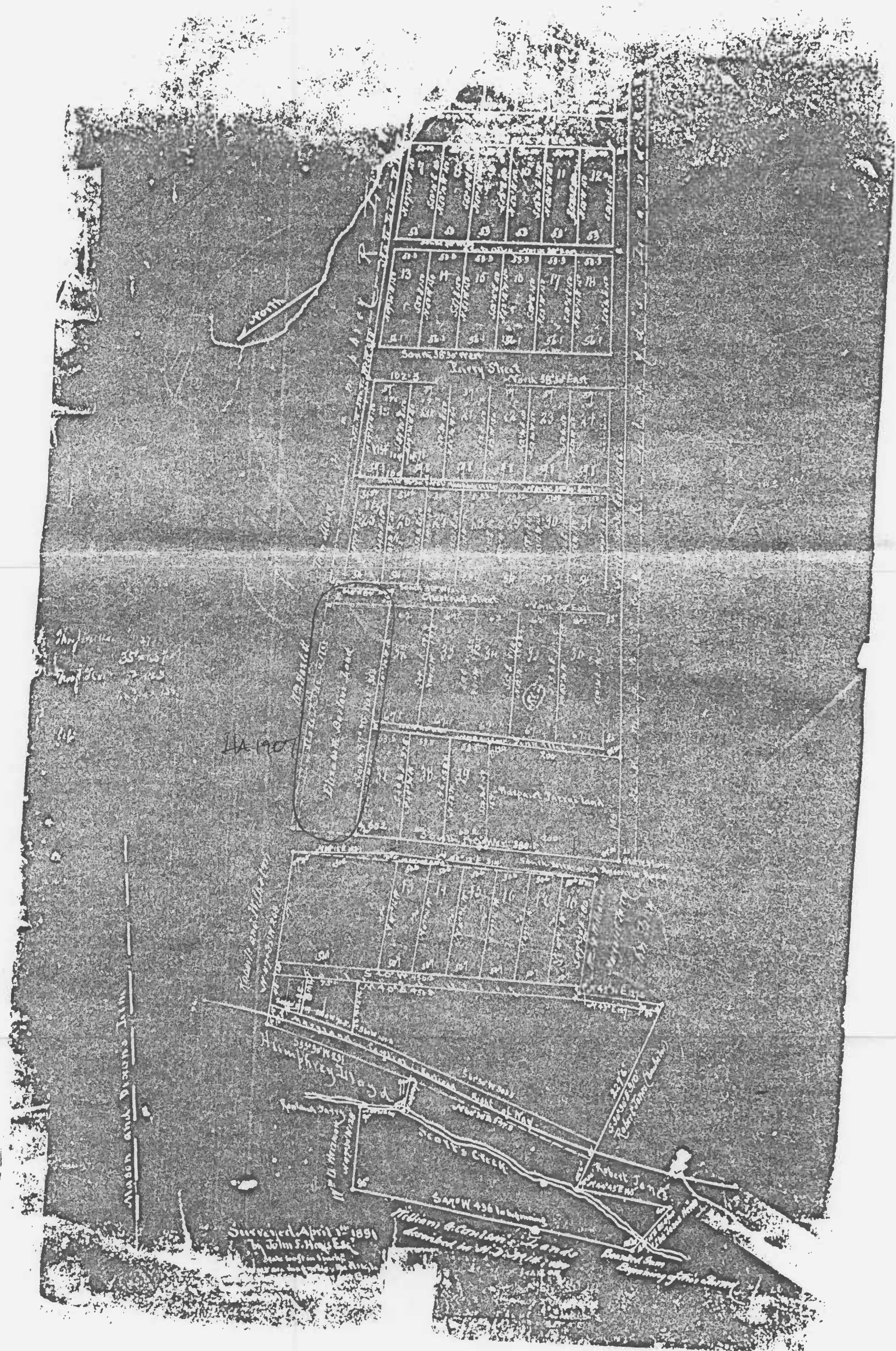
Various conversations with area residents for a contextual history of the inventory structures.



HA-1907

Helen Heaps House
Parcel 189, Tax Map 5

PLAT of SOUTH DELTA LAND COMPANY! 1891



150 000 FEET
(P.A.)

4399

4398

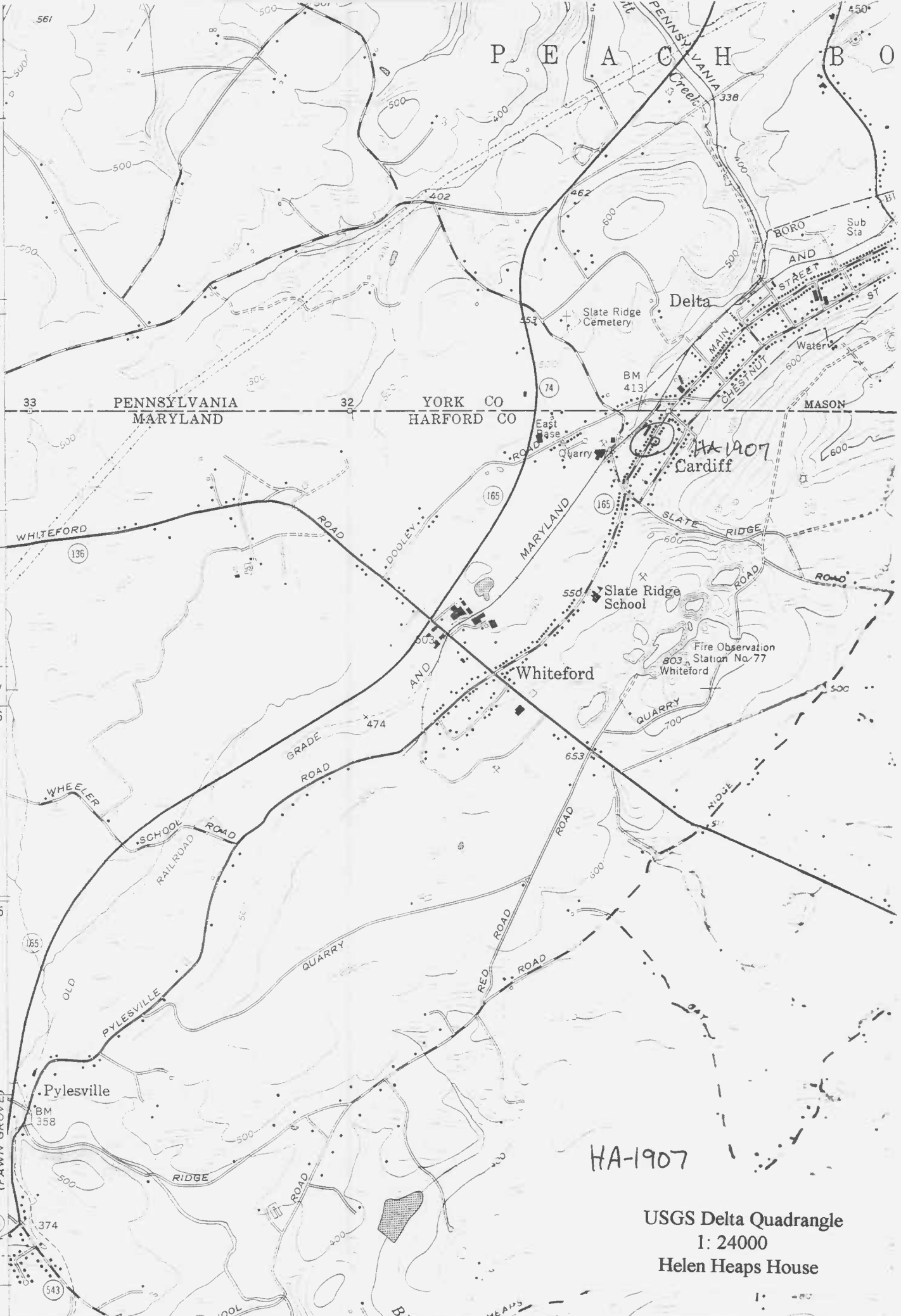
FIVE FORKS 3 MI.
GRACETON 0.6 MI.

42°30'

4396

4395

5763 III NW
(FAWN GROVE)
HILL 6.4 MI
RIVER 2.1 MI



USGS Delta Quadrangle
1: 24000
Helen Heaps House



Feb 1967

- 30 - 1st House

Harford County, Maryland

Dan Kline

3/95

Maryland SHPE

~~Chris Weeks, Harford County, Dept. of Planning & Zoning~~

View east from Main Street

1/2



HA 302

Helen May's House

Harford County, Maryland

Blanco Hill

3/95

Harford Hill

Expos. W. side, Harford County, Dept. of Planning & Zoning

W. side West from Arthur Street

2/2